

**REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 2, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 2, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 21-39 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claim 31 is indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 31 has been cancelled. Claims 34-39 have been added.

***Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Cook, et al.*, 2004/0045616. Regarding claim 21, *Cook, et al.* does not disclose a non circular surrounding surface. The tubular 210 of *Cook et al.* is always deformed into a tubular casing. The casing is circular. Therefore, *Cook, et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest the tubular member assumes a shape of a non circular surrounding surface and forms a seal therebetween as recited in amended claims 21-24. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 21-24 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 25-30, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Wright, 1,339,641*. Regarding claim 25, Applicant has amended claim 25 to include allowable claim 31. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 25-30 are in condition for allowance.

***New Claims***

New claims 34-39 have been added. Claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 21. As discussed above Applicants believe that claim 21 is in condition for allowance and thus, claims 34 and 35 are also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 36 the references cited by the Examiner do not teach, show, or suggest the tubular assumes a shape of an unlined bore section and forms a seal

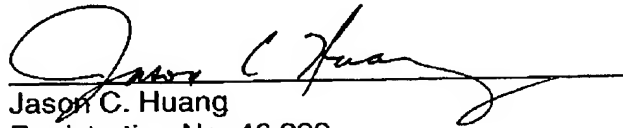
PATENT  
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0023.C2

therebetween as recited in the claim 36. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 36-39 are in condition for allowance.

### ***Conclusion***

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Huang  
Registration No. 46,222  
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicants

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☒ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☒ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☒ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**